

The Daily Gazetteer.

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It is a great Advantage Truth hath over Falshood, that whereas the Latter suffers by all strict Inquiries, the Former receives Benefit even from the Measures taken to oppose it, and borrows, as the light Part of a Picture from the Shade, new Beauties from its contrary. As

It derives Value from those Trials which destroy its Metals, and as Innocence appears the brighter on the discuffing of Calumnies, so, whenever Political Champions for Disloyalty or Confusion endeavour to turn the Measures of the Ministry into Ridicule, they are sure to furnish Antidotes to their own Poison, and to prevent the very Mischief they intended to do. Just as a certain Assassin, in attacking worthy Man he had been hired to murder, did him other Injury than cutting off a Wen by a Stroke he made at him, which all the Surgeons he had consulted refused to undertake. But this is the Effect of an ever-ruling Providence, which hath a Power of bringing Good out of Evil, and is a plain Proof that the System, of the World's being rul'd by Wisdom, is a mere Chimera, invented by such as are enemies to the Wisdom above them, and who would plaid Heaven and Earth were under no better Dictation than their own Affairs, that they might conceal their bad Circumstances by looking on a Universe as great Confusion.

These Thoughts (not to dissemble with the Publick) came to me on reading *Common Sense* of September 1, 1740. The Author, I dare say, plumed himself on that elegant Essay, and, like another *Dracansir*, boasted that singly he had defeated a whole Army. I am indeed for him and his Party that such Triumphs as these please them! Happy for him that Jokes on distant Cases, and that they can comfort themselves with Circumstances with Ribaldry like this! But certainly he is under a prodigious Mistake, if he imagines that any but his Associates are diverted with such Stuff. This interesting Paper consists of. No, I will venture to assure him, that all grave and considerate Persons see it in a right Light; in the Light of *Nixon's* moving up the Acts of Parliament in *Westminster-hall*; in the Light of haranguing a Mob on the Virtues of *St. Omer's* Denunciation, which shows the Temper as well as the Aim of its Author, and are in no sort of Doubt but that the Delence of a *Massacre*, or an *Invective* against *St. Omer*, would be written with equal Spirit and Accuracy by the same Hand. Practice becomes a Second Nature, and some Men value themselves upon doing any thing as ridiculous as they ought to be.

All the World knows, that this Journalist lives by Performances; and therefore it is an Act of Kindness to set his Wit forth to the best Advantage; and as there is no Spleen to the Man, as I am sure no body has any Apprehension from his Paper, I will endeavour for once to point out its particular Graces, that may be as universally esteem'd as it deserves. In the first place then I must remark, that Truth, which all Writers are so fond of, is a thing he looks upon as a Load. According to his Common-sense, the troops incamp'd on *Hounslow-heath* were intended to do this affords our polite *Satirist* Ground to go to them. Some Folks however, who pretend to know as much of the Matter as *He*, alledge, that encampments were very necessary to prevent, first, *Mischief* Disturbances in consequence of *Malcontent* *Peasants*; and secondly, to resist foreign Invaders, in case any of the Friends of *Common Sense* had thought of crossing the Water. But as neither of these Occasions of fighting offered, why, they think the Troops were under no indispensable Obligation of fighting themselves. But this it seems never occurred, or at least appeared unworthy the Notice of *Common Sense*.

Next to Truth, most great Authors respect Decorum; but *Common Sense* can succeed without this Help. The Army, as it now stands, is the Nation's Army, raised and paid by Parliament, most of the Officers who command it have Estates, and are Freeholders

of *Great Britain*; some, Senators; but all, it seems, fit Objects of this *Fellow's* Spleen. There was an Army once incamp'd on the same Spot, to which *Common Sense* would have paid more Respect; but it is to be hop'd we shall never see an Army, so modell'd, again in the Vicinity of *London*. I imagine *Common Sense* thought of routing this Army as the Friends of Liberty routed that; and because King *James's* Troops were dissipated by a *Lero, Lero, Lillibullero*, he fancied those of King *George* would be frightened by a *Journal*. But he may rest assured, that there is not an Officer in that Army so weak as to take Offence at his Wit, or fancy that so notorious a Libeller can any way affect his Character. Manners are valuable in all, but especially necessary to every one who calls himself a Gentleman, and therefore a Person capable of insulting, abusing, and belying so great a Number of Gentlemen of Family, Fortune, and Character, merely for doing their Duty as it became them, in Consequence of their bearing the King's Commission, and being thereby indispensably obliged to fulfil his Orders, must not think it hard if he be suspected of only pretending to *Common sense*.

But it may be said, this is a *Jeu d'Esprit*, a Flight of *Fancy*, a sprightly Stroke of *Railery*, and all that intended, only to make the Army hateful and ridiculous at the same time. We have, at present, too many of *Solomon's* Fools amongst us, who throw about their *Fire-brands* daily, and then cry, *am I not in Sport?* We hear of the same Precautions taken abroad in *Spain*, in *France*, in *Holland*; but do we ever hear that the People express an Uneasiness that the Forces they pay, don't cut each other's Throats? No, they are wiser. Such Monsters as make a Jest of all things, who by Jestings, draw us into a War, make jesting Speeches about the War, and write Papers full of Jest, on all that concerns the War; tho' in the same Breath, they own it of the last Importance to their Country, are found only here, and serve to make Sport for the Patriots. It is indeed a melancholy Truth, that a certain *Faction* is composed only of *sober* Contrivers of *Mischief*, and *Madmen* who laugh at the *Mischief* they contrive. Yet these are Patriots forsooth, these are Lovers of their Country, these are Enemies to Corruption, and these are the Spreaders of those Stories which made this War necessary, and are like to make it lingering; these are they on whom the *Spaniards* rely, to whom *France* has an Eye (some of them being her old Acquaintance) and of whom the *Dutch*, with too much Reason, doubt: *All worthy honourable Men!*

There is no Man of moderate Parts, and reasonable Impartiality, can apprehend that this Encampment was resolved upon without mature Deliberation, or can think it was expedient that either the Motives thereto should be made publick, or that the Author of *Common Sense* should have been consulted particularly as to his Opinion of them: Nor is there a Person of tolerable Penetration who does not discern the Encampments were expedient, in case of our having a favourable Opportunity of invading the Enemy, or in case we had been obliged to defend ourselves. One might offer many other Reasons of a like Nature, which could not fail of rising in any Man's Mind, capable of thinking seriously and properly upon the Subject: But alas, this is talking to the Winds and to the Waves. Mr. *Common Sense* and his Associates, are only angry with Encampments, because they were proper; it is therefore carrying Coals to *Newcastle*, to labour this Point with them; they are but too sensible, and in this Case it may be said, *Out of the Abundance of the Heart the Mouth speaketh*. It must be admitted however in their Favour, that in Matters of this sort, they do play the Part of *Politicians*, and make in Publick a Jest of those Measures, the Propriety of which they both own and lament in secret. Mr. *Common Sense*, I hope, will acknowledge this as an Act of Justice done to his Party, because he particularly knows it to be true.

One great and indeed sufficient Reason for the Government's taking this Precaution, is offered by the Paper immediately under my Consideration. While we are engaged in a War abroad, there was a Necessity of providing against the Designs of certain abandoned, wicked, and traitorous People at home. Such Men to be sure, are always waiting a favourable Opportunity of exerting themselves to the Danger if not

the Destruction of their Fellow-subjects; therefore it becomes those who are at the Helm, to keep a strict Eye on, and have a constant Guard over Enemies, inconsiderable only as they want Resolution to own their Purposes. That such a Party there is, who can doubt that reads *Common Sense*? Such as rejoice in their Country's Distress, smile at whatever Accidents befall her, upbraid her Magistrates, insult her Laws, and shew the utmost Contempt for her Sovereign, and his Administration, must deserve Notice. The incamping our Troops therefore, had very probably Respect to these Sort of Folks, and if so, we must look upon that Measure, as an Act of Hostility committed against the Abettors of *Common Sense*, who, in attacking the Army in this Case, did but his Duty, and repelled Force by Force. I am the more inclin'd to think this the Truth, because the sanguine Style he writes in, shews a Soul touched to the quick; to be sure, the poor Gentleman has a piteous Overflowing of the Gall.

When I consider the Language of this Author, it puts me in mind of a bearded Bully. He falls a railing at the Man who has chastised him, calls him Names, nay, and questions his Courage. Just so Mr. *Common Sense*: The Army with him, are a Crew of *Sheep-stealers*, the Officers are a Parcel of *Essence Fops*, *Female Implements*, *Carpet Knights*, *Men of Equipage*, and *Darby Captains*, merely for doing their Duty, and discouraging Mr. *Common Sense's* Disciples from practising their *Tutors* Principles. If any of my Readers can doubt of this, let them but recollect this Writer's outrageous Prophecies about a Year ago, when he talk'd of wild Beasts and Fools, and offered his own vile Conceptions as if they had been Oracles of State, or Divine Revelations. Let them consider the whole Scope and Tendency of this Man's Writings, the Views he is known to have, and the Principles on which he professes to act; and then let them read his last *Saturday's* Libel over again, and I dare say they will be of my Opinion. Indeed there is no understanding the particular Paper of any political Writer thoroughly, without considering the Plan on which he writes; the Man's Character and Capacity, his Affection for, and Dislike of reigning Parties. These are the Rules by which we ought to interpret, and if any Man will write without Regard, or in direct Opposition to these Rules, he must thank himself if he is mistaken.

I am naturally averse to mingling Buffoonery with Politics, and therefore I declare, that what I have been saying, is in earnest, my real Sentiments; and the just Result of my Reflection on Mr. *Common Sense's* witty Oration on the Camp at *Hounslow*. The Licence afforded to these Sort of Folks has certainly had a proper Effect; they have within these few Months shewn themselves in their true Colours, and treated the Government, as if it was actually at their Mercy; they have given demonstrative Evidence of their good Intentions toward their Country, and these sincere Desire, that as this War with *Spain* began justly, so it should be ended with Honour. Their Discourses, Papers, Pictures, all manifest this, and manifest it so strongly, that there is no doubting it. Such as have treated his Majesty's Administration so despitely, would no question, if their Power was equal to their Malice, overturn his Government; and therefore I will be bold to say, the *Common Sense* of *Saturday*, September 27, 1740, is a more convincing Argument of the Necessity of keeping Forces on Foot in *Great Britain*, than all that has been urged in the several Speeches in Defence of this Measure within Doors, or without; because it shews that to this, and to this only, we owe both our Peace and Safety. I hope consequently, that common Prudence will keep us steady in those Measures which have so long protected us in the real Enjoyment of our Liberties; and that such Writings will have no other Effects than shewing who they are that assist the common Enemy by dividing us, or endeavouring to divide us at home, while we are fighting abroad for the most important Concern of our Nation, a free and extensive Trade.

R. FREEMAN.

Hague, October 14, N. S.

People highly commend the Resolution which the States General caused to be delivered.



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